

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS

1. DURING A LUNCHEON ON MARCH 26 GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR GREENWALD, AT WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE YEUTTER WAS PRESENT, EC COMM-

SSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS HIJZEN COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE THORNY ISSUES OF THE TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. THERE ARE CLEARLY SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND EC POSITIONS. THESE REAL ISSUES WOULD HAVE TO BE FACED AT SOME TIME AND AN EFFORT MADE TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES. BUT IT SEEMED UNNECESSARY AND UNDESIRABLE TO HAVE CONSTANT CONFRONTATION OVER PROCEDURAL ISSUES. THE BEST APPROACH WAS TO AVOID RAISING THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EC HAD BEEN WILLING TO KEEP QUIET ON THIS ISSUE IN THE NTB GROUP AND PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

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B. THE MALMGREN/HIJZEN UNDERSTANDING AT TNC WAS REALLY A NEBULOUS

ACCORD AIMED AT AVOIDING WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN IMMINENT CONFRONTATION. IT WAS DESIGNED TO LEAVE ALL OPTIONS OPEN. WE SHOULD AVOID RECRIMINATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE EC AND THE US REALLY DID NOT AGREE ON HOW AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE HANDLED IN THE MTNS AND THAT, THEREFORE, NOBODY REALLY IS BREAKING HIS WORD.

C. THE EC DOES NOT INTEND TO HOLD UP PROGRESS AT THIS TIME EITHER AT THE NTM OR TARIFF GROUPS BECAUSE OF LACK OF PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. THEY WILL SEEK TO MAKE AS MUCH PROGRESS AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT BEING STICKY ON STRUCTURAL QUESTIONS.

2. YEUTTER EXPLAINED THAT WE ALSO DID NOT WANT TO SPEND UNNECESSARY TIME ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS. BUT EQUALLY, THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE OUR SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIVES OF SEEKING SIMULTANEOUS PROGRESS IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. THE US SEEKS TO DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN THE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS FIRST, AND THEN, IF NECESSARY, TO ESTABLISH COMMODITY GROUPS IN WHICH MATTERS WHICH WERE NOT SOLVABLE IN THE TARIFF AND NTM GOUPS COULD BE RESOLVED. ANOTHER APPROACH IS TO SET UP JOINT WORKING PARTIES. YEUTTER SAID THAT WE ARE NOT OPPOSED EITHER TO DISCUSSING AGRICULTURE IN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP OR TO THE CREATION OF COMMODITY SUBGROUPS AT SOME POINT IN TIME. BUT ANY DISCUSSIONS IN THESE GROUPS, IN OUR VIEW, SUBSEQUENTLY SHOULD BE FOLDED BACK INTO THE NTM AND TARIFF GROUPS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

3. HIJZEN MADE AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO BE CONCILIATORY IN ARGUING THE EC POSITION. HE ASSERTED A WILLINGNESS TO BE FLEXIBLE ON INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EC NEGOTIATING GUIDELINES. HIJZEN'S MAIN ARGUMENT SEEMED TO BE THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE FORMAL SITUATION MAY BE ON NEGOTIATING STRUCTURE, THE US AND THE EC EACH HAVE A SINGLE DELEGATION TO THE MTN AND THE SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES WILL INVOLVE THE SAME PEOPLE. HE ALSO AGREED THERE SHOULD BE MORE BILATERAL CONTACTS IN THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE MALMGREN REPLACEMENT IS ON BOARD. IN ANY EVENT, THE US/EC BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29-30 WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH TALKS ABOUT HOW TO PROGRESS IN THE MTN.

4. WHILE THE GENERAL CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE WAS DISCUSSED WITH YEUTTER, IT WAS DRAFTED AFTER HIS DEPARTURE. GREENWALD
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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